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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY** [US/US]; 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **FIGUEROA, Juan, C.** [US/US]; 2119 Westminister Drive, Wilmington, DE 19810 (US). **LUNDGREN, Cynthia, A.** [US/US]; 115 Montgomery Road, Rising Sun, MD 21911 (US).
- (74) Agent: **FICKES, Daphne, P.**; E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY, Legal Patent Records Center, 4417 Lancaster Pike, Wilmington, DE 19805 (US).
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- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: VAPOR DEPOSITED CATALYSTS AND THEIR USE IN FUEL CELLS

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a catalyst useful in a proton exchange membrane containing fuel cell for the electrooxidation of fuels prepared by the chemical activation of vapor deposited substantially semicrystalline PtXaAlb onto a substrate, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of Ru, Rh, Mo, W, V, Hf, Zr, Nb and Co, and a is at least 0.001, and b is at least 0.85• (1+a), with the proviso that when a=1 and b=8, X is only selected from the group consisting of W, V, Hf, Zr, Nb, and Co. These catalysts have an onset voltage for the electrooxidation of methanol of less than about 240 mV versus a saturated calomel electrode (SCE). They are useful in making diffusion backing electrodes and catalyst coated membranes for use in fuel cells.

WO 2004/022209 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 03/20893

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H01M4/92

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C23C H01M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DENIS M C ET AL: "HIGH ENERGY BALL-MILLED PT AND PT-RU CATALYSTS FOR POLYMER ELECTROLYTE FUEL CELLS AND THEIR TOLERANCE TO CO" JOURNAL OF APPLIED ELECTROCHEMISTRY, CHAPMAN AND HALL. LONDON, GB, vol. 29, no. 8, August 1999 (1999-08), pages 951-960, XP000854418 ISSN: 0021-891X the whole document	1-26
A	US 5 872 074 A (DENIS MARIE-CHANTAL ET AL) 16 February 1999 (1999-02-16) the whole document	1-26
A	US 5 767 036 A (HEINZ GERHARD ET AL) 16 June 1998 (1998-06-16) the whole document	1-26
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 April 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

19/04/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Koessler, J-L

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>US 2002/022160 A1 (SCHMIDT DAVID G) 21 February 2002 (2002-02-21) the whole document</p>	1-26

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 03/20893**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 11
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 11

Present claim 11 relate to a catalyst defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely having an onset voltage for methanol electrooxidation of less than about 240 mV versus a saturated calomel electrode

The claims cover all compounds having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such compounds. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the compound by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be clear, supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds of claim 1.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

In International Application No

P US 03/20893

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